

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed October 22, 2003.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the limitations recited in claims 6 and 17, respectively, while claims 6 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, claims 7 and 10 have been amended to reflect dependency from claim 1 instead of presently cancelled claim 6. Lastly, claims 2 and 5 have been amended to correct grammatical errors.

Claims 1-5 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,236,696 (hereinafter "Aoki"). Accordingly, presently amended claims 1 and 11 now include the limitations of claims 6 and 17, respectively, while claims 6 and 17 have been cancelled. Furthermore, claim 7 has been presently amended to reflect that it is dependent from claim 1 instead of from presently cancelled claim 6.

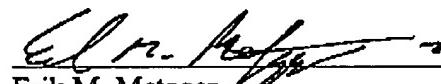
Because Aoki does not teach all claim limitations of claims 1 and 11, as presently amended, neither claims 1 and 11, nor any claim depending therefrom, can be said to be anticipated by Aoki. Therefore, Applicant asserts that rejected claims 1-5 and 11-15 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are additional fees due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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